THE

Theatrical Observer:

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down ought in malice."

No. 1261 *Wednesday, Dec 21, 1825.* *Price 1d.*

Covent Garden Theatre.

The Marriage of Figaro was performed here again yesterday evening; this delightful little Opera, originally from the pen of Beaumarchais, has stood its ground better than any productions of so light a nature, that have appeared for many years; the rapid succession of incidents, and the excellent stage situations, are unparalleled, if we except a few of the highest class of Comedy; and if the characters are not original, they are natural, and excellently drawn, and have been decided favorites under whatever name they appeared. The strongest proof that can be adduced of the intrinsic merit and excellence of the piece, proceeds from the variety of languages into which it has been translated; under each of which transmigrations, notwithstanding the difference of popular feeling, it has been a decided favorite. The tale on which the French author has founded his play is of Spanish origin; it was first introduced to an English audience, as a Farce, under the title of *The Follies of a Day*. Mozart afterwards set it to music as an Italian Opera, called *Il Nozze di Figaro*. An inferior Italian composer of the name, (if we recollect right) of Giovanni Peretti, made an attempt at the same subject, which failed. Mozart's delightful composition has been arranged in the German, French, English, and Portuguese languages; perhaps a greater and more general tide of success has seldom been known.—Miss Paton is the best representative of the *Countess Almaviva* that we have seen either on the English or Italian stage; her finished florid style exactly coincides with our idea of the highly polished woman of fashion. Madame Vestris is excellent, either in the pert waiting-maid, or the little page. It reflects great credit on that lady's powers that she is able to sustain the parts of *Cherubino* at the King's Theatre, and *Susanna* in the English adaptation, so well; and it occurs to us that somewhere or other we have seen her in the *Countess*, though we are not thoroughly convinced we are right. Poor Duruset is a most ineffective *Figaro*—Imprimis, the character should be personated by a bass singer, and 2ndly, by a good actor, who should be possessed of a peculiarly arch manner, not one of which requisites does our present subject possess. Jones's *Count Almaviva*, and Mrs. Chatterley's Page, were excellent as usual. The inferior parts, as regarded musical strength, were particularly well cast;—the rich bass voices of Tinney and Isaacs are most effective in the finales. The Operatic

Farce of *'Twas I*, though rather a favorite, was unfortunately situated immediately after so sterling a piece as the last, and, in consequence, appeared to less advantage than usual. The favorite Farce of *The Scape-Goat* concluded the performance, and seems likely to become as completely a stock-piece as *The Irish Tutor*. Madame Vestris and Miss Paton received several encores in the course of the evening, but they refused, for some reason which seemed but known to themselves, to delight us with a repetition of our favourite duet, "Sul aria," though loudly called for.—The house was well attended.

Drury Lane Theatre.

The entertainments of the great houses, at the present season of the year, are generally allowed to partake more than usual of shew and spectacle, under the idea of delighting the juvenile branches of our families; but if we mistake not, most of our young friends are more satisfied with a good sterling Play, than with half the Melodramas and Stories of Enchantment that are put before them. Whether our opinions on this subject are well founded or not, surely two such horrible tales of *diablerie*, as *Faustus*, and *Der Freischutz*, are enough to pall the most excited imagination. Besides, the impolicy of giving an over-dose of the horrors; it is cruel to give Misses Graddon and Povey the two principal characters, so very arduous as they are, in both pieces of the same evening; our lungs, we fear, will not recover from the sulphereous fumigation for a month to come. To-night, to judge by the appearance of the box-book, will be a bumper; we hope it will be followed by many others, for we have reason to fear, that without some timely assistance of this sort, the exchequer of the theatre will be bankrupt; Liston's appearance will, we expect, prove the signal for a revolution in the financial department, and we perceive from the announcements, that the management have a strong *corps de reserve* in the persons of Stephens, Foote, and Sinclair, to ensure their success in the field.—There was a numerous audience.

The Grand and Select Masquerade, under the especial patronage of the Haut Ton, will take place at the Argyll Rooms, on Thursday, Dec. 29.—For particulars of Tickets, (one guinea) and boxes to view the Masqueraders without mixing with the motley group, apply to the Committee, at Mr. Charles Wright's, Opera Colonnade, Haymarket, who will supply the finest Wines on the occasion.

Fashionable Lounges.—Open Daily.

The Burmese Imperial State Carriage, studded with 20,000 precious Stones, an object of the greatest splendour and curiosity, captured in India, at Tavoy, in the Kingdom of Ava.—Is Exhibiting, as drawn by Elephants, at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.

Diorama, Regent's Park.—The present Views are the Ruins of Holyrood Chapel, a moonlight scene, and Chartres Cathedral.—Open from 10 till 4.—N. B. Between the hours of 11 and 3, is the best time to View the Diorama.

Printed and Published by E. Thomas, Denmark-court, Exeter-change, Strand
All Communications must be post paid.—Printing in General.

Theatre Royal, Covent Garden.

This Evening, the Opera of

THE DUENNA.

Don Jerome, Mr BLANCHARD,
Carlos, [first time] Madame VESTRIS,
Antonio, Mr PEARMAN, Ferdinand, MrDURUSET
Isaac, Mr FAWCETT,
Father Paul.....Mr BARTLEY,
Father Francis, Mr MEARS, Lopez, Mr EVANS,
Father Austin, Mr TINNEY,
Lewis, Mr Henry, Sancho, Mr J. Cooper,
Lay-Brother, Mr BARNES,
Camilla, Miss C. BODEN, Nun, Miss SMITH,
Clara, Miss PATON,
The Duenna, Mrs DAVENPORT,
Louisa. Miss LOVE, Laurette, Mrs BROWN.

After which, (11th time) a New Operatic Farce, called

'TWAS I.

Delorme, (a Farmer) Mr DURUSET,
Marcel, Mr KEELEY,
Town Clerk.....Mr BARNES,
Mayor of the Village, Mr EVANS,
Marchioness de Merrevale, Mrs WILSON,
Julienne....(Wife of Delorme)....Miss JONES,
Madame Mag, Mrs DAVENPORT.
Georgette Clariville, (her Cousin) Mad. VESTRIS

To-morrow, The Road to Ruin.

☞ Dark Evenings.—The Public is requested to be careful in going to the Theatres, not to be imposed on by an Imitation of *The Theatrical Observer*.

Cosmorama—A change having taken place in this Exhibition, it is now composed of a General View of Rome, Views of St. Peter's at Rome, the Cathedral at Rome, and several others, equally interesting.—209, Regent Street, Oxford Street.

Great Room, Spring Gardens. Marshall's Peristrephic Original Panorama, (with new additions lately made) illustrative of all the events which happened to Bonaparte, from the Battle) of Waterloo till his death, displaying 13 Views of St. Helena, the Battles of Genappe, Trafalgar, &c. accompanied by a full Military Band.—Day Exhibitions, from 12 till 5,—Evening ditto, by Gas, at 7 and half-past 8.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, the Comedy of

The Hypocrite.

Sir John Lambert.....Mr POWELL,
Col. Lambert, Mr WALLACK,
Doctor Cantwell.....Mr DOWTON,
Seward, Mr YOUNGE, Tipstaff, Mr READ,
Maw-worm.....Mr LISTON,
(His first appearance this season)
Darnley.....Mr PENLEY,
Old Lady Lambert.....Mrs HARLOWE,
Charlotte, Mrs DAVISON,
Young Lady Lambert, Mrs ORGER.

After which, a new Military Divertisement, called

THE CAMP.

The Principal Daneers by Mr & Mrs NOBLE.

To conclude with the Farce of

Love, Law, & Physic.

Doctor Camphor, Mr W. BENNETT,
Lubin Log, Mr LISTON, Andrew, Mr RUSSELL,
Captain Danvers, Mr PENLEY,
Flexible, Mr HARLEY, who will introduce
'THE HUMOURS OF A PLAYHOUSE'
John Brown, Mr HUGHES, Waiter, Mr POVEY,
Coachman, Mr YARNOLD,
Laura, Miss CUBITT, Mrs Hillary, Mrs ORGER,
Maid, Miss C. CARR,

To-morrow, Guy Mannering.

☞ ROYAL THEATRES—Opera and Private Boxes for all the Theatres; Admissions for the Season, Drury £5 5s—the Garden £6 6s.—A splendid Stage Box, Drury, for 8 Persons, £2 2s, to be had nightly—CHARLES WRIGHT next the King's Theatre, Opera Colonade, Haymarket—*Finest Champaign* 6s.